

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 16, 2002**

**CONTACT:
Dena Graziano: (202) 226-6888**

CONYERS BLASTS ADMINISTRATION FOR AIDING ACCUSED AMERICAN TALIBAN JOHN WALKER LINDH'S LEGAL DEFENSE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement in response to the news that accused American Taliban John Walker Lindh's defense team has urged the dismissal of gun charges filed against him based upon the Justice Department's recently espoused views supporting a broad individual right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment.

"Today's news is a clear indication of what happens when political agendas are placed ahead of the interests of the American people."

"The ultimate outcome of Attorney General John Ashcroft's decision last week to disregard longstanding Supreme Court precedent and consistent Justice Department policy should have been predicted. As evidenced by the actions of accused American Taliban John Walker Lindh's attorneys, the Justice Department's position has strengthened the legal position of those charged with serious crimes. This truly marks a sad day in this country's legal history. As local law enforcement officials work feverishly to lock-up criminals, this Administration shows them the way out the backdoor."

#107-174#